



World Christian Fellowship

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Heaven

04-How we will be in Heaven?

The Bible teaches that believers will experience eternal perfection. Whole person comprising, Spirit, Soul, and body.

Heaven is a perfect place for people made perfect.

The purpose of salvation is to make us perfect, so we can dwell in God's presence forever.

The New Person

2 Corinthians 5:17, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Colossians 2:10, *and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*

2 Peter 1:3, *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

If you are a Christian, the life of God dwells in your soul.

You are a new person.

Romans 6:18, *And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness*

Instead of being slaves of sin, we're servants of righteousness. Instead of receiving the wages of sin, which is death, we have received God's gift of eternal life.

Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The Problem

Our new inner nature is enslaved in human flesh.

Romans 7:15-17, *For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. ¹⁷ But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

Paul was establishing a very important principle.

Though the believer is a new creation and has a new life, that new life isn't able to fully express itself because of the presence of sin.

Romans 7:18, *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.*

By "flesh" Paul means not just his physical body but the totality of human fallenness. His mind, emotions, and will still suffered the effects of the fall of mankind.

Romans 7:19-23, *For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. ²⁰ Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

Paul repeatedly identifies the source of the problem as his flesh, his body, his bodily members.

Romans 7:24-25, *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.*

All those expressions refer to his unredeemed humanness. The authority and dominion of sin is broken in the believer's life, but sin is still present.

God has planted the incorruptible seed of eternal life deep in the believer's soul.

Man has the power to do what is right because he has a new heart and the presence of the Spirit, who is the down payment, on the perfection he will enjoy in the future.

Every believer eagerly awaits the day when that perfection is his.

Romans 8:23, *Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

We have had a taste of what redemption is like, so we want to be completely redeemed.

1. Perfected Soul

Sin has crippled our souls and stained our spirits.

It has damaged our thoughts, wills, and emotions.

We yearn for the day when the eternal seed within us will bloom into fullness and we will be completely redeemed.

a) Required:

In heaven our souls and bodies will be eternally perfect. No one will ever enter heaven or dwell there who isn't perfect.

Revelation 6:11, *Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while*

longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

The white robes symbolize holiness, purity, and absolute perfection.

Revelation 7:14, *And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

The Bible is emphasizing the perfection of those who enter heaven.

As believers we have within us the seed of perfection in our spirit. But our souls are not yet perfect.

Not just our bodies, but our minds, wills, and emotions are all corrupted by sin because our souls are not yet perfected.

But the moment a believer dies, his soul is instantly perfected, and he enters God's presence.

The body goes to the grave.

The soul goes immediately to heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:8, *We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*

Philippians 1:23, *For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.*

All the saints who have died are now in Paradise without their bodies.

Hebrews 12:22-23, *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

b) Described

What will the perfected soul be like?

God will be able to scrutinize it and find no imperfection or sin.

1 Corinthians 2:11-13, *For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

Paul is saying it is impossible to understand who we are in Christ apart from the instruction of the Spirit.

It is also impossible to know what we will be in the future apart from what the Spirit teaches us.

1 Corinthians 2:9, *But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

We will experience perfect freedom from evil forever.

We will never have a selfish thought or utter useless words.

We will never perform an unkind deed.

There will be no imperfection in heaven!

- There will be no sin, suffering, sorrow, or pain.
- We will never doubt God or fear His displeasure because we will never do anything to displease Him.
- There will be no temptation because the world, the flesh, and the devil will all be conspicuously absent.
- There will be no persecution, division, disunity, or hate. In heaven there will be no quarrels or disagreements.
- There will be no disappointments.
- There will be no weeping because there will be nothing to make us sad.
- There will be no more teaching or evangelism.

i) Perfect Pleasure

Psalms 16:11, *You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

ii) Perfect knowledge

1 Corinthians 13:12, *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

iii) Perfect comfort

Luke 16:25, *But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.*

iv) Perfect love

1 Corinthians 13:13, *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

v) Perfect Joy

Heaven is a place of unmixed and unending joy. Joy in this life is always mixed with sorrow, discouragement, disappointment, or

worry. Sin, grief, and sorrow dampen all our joys. But heaven will be a place of unmixed joy.

2. Perfected Body

Our ultimate perfection demands that both body and soul be renewed. Even the creation of a new heaven and earth demands that we have real bodies.

a) Promise of resurrection:

Death brings separation.

Our bodies go to the grave, and our spirits go to the Lord.

That separation continues until the resurrection.

John 5:28-29, *Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.*

Today the souls of believers who have died are in heaven, and the souls of unbelievers who have died are in hell.

But someday the bodies of the redeemed will be resurrected and joined to their spirits, and they will enjoy the eternal perfection of body and soul.

There will also be a day when the bodies of the ungodly will be raised from the graves and joined to their spirits, so both their bodies and souls will endure the torments of hell forever.

The resurrection of the ungodly explained.

Revelation 20:11-15, *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before [\[c\]](#)God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

There will be a resurrection unto damnation and judgment.

As Christians we eagerly await the redemption of our bodies.

2 Corinthians 5:1-2, *For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,*

Believers resurrection described.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

At the rapture, first those believers who are dead will be united with their perfected bodies, then those who are still alive will be caught up and changed.

So, every Christian still living on the earth when Christ comes will be perfected at the rapture.

We can look forward to the promise of God!

- A glorified body
- A glorified spirit.

b) Resurrected Body

1 Corinthians 15:35-36, *But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?”* ³⁶ *Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.*

i) Distinctiveness of the resurrected body

Illustrated by three things.

a) Seed

1 Corinthians 15:36-38, *Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.* ³⁷ *And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain.* ³⁸ *But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.*

When you plant a seed, it bears almost no resemblance to what it will produce.

The life principle is in the seed, but if you hadn't previously seen the plant it produced, you wouldn't know the seed would produce that kind of plant.

The first thing a seed does is die. It goes into the ground, decomposes, and then gives life.

Similarly, our bodies will die, be placed in a grave, and then be raised, just as a seed dies and produces a plant you could never have seen in the seed.

Our resurrection bodies will be like the one that was buried but also different. We will be ourselves, but we will be perfect. The decomposition of the body isn't an obstacle to the resurrection. Just as a seed decomposes and brings forth life, so the resurrection body will come from the death of the original body.

b) Differing animal bodies

1 Corinthians 15:39, *All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds.*

The flesh of animals is determined by amino acids, of which there are myriad combinations. Each combination of amino acids produces a certain kind of flesh. We always produce our own flesh regardless of what we eat. If I were to eat chicken constantly, I wouldn't grow feathers, because the amino acids in my body will only reproduce my own flesh. The amino-acid structure that God put into flesh keeps it distinct.

God wasn't restricted to one kind of flesh in creation, so why should He be restricted to one kind of flesh in resurrection?

We can't fully understand what the resurrected body will be like just as those who are familiar only with the flesh of birds can't fully understand horses.

c) Differing Celestial bodies

1 Corinthians 15:40, *There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.*

Since God made everything from a tiny, crawling bug to a massive sun, He can make any kind of body He wants.

1 Corinthians 15:41, *There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.*

There are no two trees or seeds on earth exactly alike.

There are no two animals alike.

There are no two people exactly alike.

There are no two celestial bodies alike.

Nevertheless, some people still question God's ability to create a resurrection body.

1 Corinthians 15:42, *So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.*

Nature and astronomy illustrate that God can make any kind of body He wants.

As one body differs from another, so the resurrection body can differ from what we now know.

God may well create a unique body that preserves our personality distinctions in a state of eternal perfection. The graveyards of men are the seed plots of resurrection.

ii) Characteristics of resurrected Body

1 Corinthians 15:42-44, *So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

Imperishable:

Our heavenly bodies will be imperishable, they will never decay.

They will be permanently and eternally perfect. You will never look at your hand and notice something you haven't noticed before. You will never notice a lump growing beneath the skin. There will be no cancer X-rays in heaven. No one will develop anything there. There will be absolute, imperishable perfection.

Glorious:

Our bodies will also be glorious, reflecting the glory of God.

Powerful:

Paul says our bodies will be raised in power. They will have abilities beyond imagination--the power to fly, to accomplish everything it desires.

Spiritual:

They will be spiritual bodies in the sense that they give expression to a perfect spirit. Those bodies will be adapted for living in heaven, an existence we know little about.

Christ-Like:

1 Corinthians 15:45, *And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

Paul contrasts the heads of two families.

Adam sinned and brought death on the human race!

Jesus Christ brought life.

1 Corinthians 15:46-49, *However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are*

made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

Just as we are like Adam now, in heaven we will be like Jesus Christ, who is incorruptible, eternal, glorified, powerful, and spiritual--His perfect spirit expresses itself through His glorified humanity.

Philippians 3:21, *who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

Romans 8:29, *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

1 John 3:2, *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

The best picture of what we will be like in heaven is Jesus Christ after His resurrection.

Jesus Christ ascended to heaven with His glorified body.

Acts 1:9, *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

Jesus after His resurrection He suddenly appeared in rooms where all the doors were shut.

John 20:19, *Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."*

John 20:26, *And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"*

He ate with the disciples on several occasions.

Luke 24:42-43, *So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. ⁴³ And He took it and ate in their presence.*

John 21:12-14, *Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. ¹⁴ This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.*

There will be fruit- bearing trees in heaven.

Revelation 22:2, *In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

Just as Christ ate after His resurrection although He didn't need to, so in eternity we will eat the fruit of heavenly trees not because of need, but for enjoyment.

We will have a body fit for the full life of God to indwell and express itself forever.

- It can eat but won't need to.
- It will be a body that can move rapidly through space and matter.
- It will be ageless and not know pain, tears, sorrow, sickness, or death.
- It will be a body of splendour.

Christ's glorified body is described as shining like the sun in its strength.

Revelation 1:16, *He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.*

Conclusion:

Our longing for heaven should be intense. It is irrational to find our joy and comfort in this life.

If we want to cling to this world and its comforts and accumulate our treasure here, we are irrational and sinful. Furthermore, by seeking what will never satisfy, we are aggravating our misery.

It's reasonable to fear pain, suffering, and death, God has built that reaction into us. But it is unreasonable and even sinful to fear the result of death.

I am not longing to die, but I am longing for what death brings!

We should desire heaven like,

- ✓ a prisoner longs for freedom,
- ✓ a sick man longs for health,
- ✓ a hungry man longs for food,
- ✓ a thirsty man longs for water.

If we don't, something is wrong. We should be saying with the apostle John, "Come, Lord Jesus"

Revelation 22:20, *He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

If you're not a Christian, don't pity Christians. We enjoy the best of life and will live eternally with God, while those who pity us because of the parties we are missing will spend eternity without God in the torments of hell. All that is glorious, noble, and blessed awaits us in heaven.